CENTRAL MICHIGAN
LIFE
WWW.CM-LIFE.COM

Fire Up Worldwide

CMU sees surge in international student enrollment

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 || MOUNT PLEASANT, MI

SOARING EAGLE
CASINO & RESORT
Get your tickets at Soaring Eagle Casino or Saganing Eagles Landing Casino Box Offices, ETIX.COM or call 1.800.513.ETIX.

ALICE IN CHAINS & BREAKING BENJAMIN | FRIDAY, SEPT. 23 6:30PM $32, $70, $90 & $100

BOURBON & BACON FEATURING 3B SPECIAL | SATURDAY, SEPT. 24 6:30PM Starts at just $75

SOLD OUT
RINGO STARR AND HIS ALL STARR BAND | FRIDAY, SEPT. 30 8:00PM $109, $102, $89, $69, $44.50

LEE BRICE | SATURDAY, OCT. 8 8:00PM $44, $54, $72, $78

SOLD OUT
RON WHITE THE FINAL TOUR | FRIDAY, OCT. 14 8:00PM $56, $66, $78, $84

VIRTUAL WALLET STUDENT®

Simple banking for busy students, with digital banking tools like Low Cash Mode®[1] in the PNC Mobile app[2] to help you avoid overdraft fees. Plus, carry a PNC Bank Visa® Affinity Debit Card from the best overall bank for students according to Money.com.

To learn more or apply, visit the PNC branch in the Bovee University Center or pnc.com/cmich

PNC BANK

1 Low Cash Mode is only available on the Spend account of your Virtual Wallet product.
2 A supported mobile device is needed to use Mobile Banking. Standard message and data rates may apply.
Visa is a registered trademark of Visa International Service Association and used under license.
Low Cash Mode and Virtual Wallet Student are registered marks of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
©2022 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved. PNC Bank, National Association. **Member FDIC**

1620 S MISSION STREET
(989) 317-0021

TOKII BUBBLE TREE

GRAND OPENING

SEPT 27TH-OCT 9TH

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

LARGE SIZE ONLY

OFFER VALID ONLY FOR DRINKS

SIGNATURE POKE

RAMEN

MILK TEA

FLAVORED TEAS

SMOOTHIES

AND MORE

MONDAY CLOSED
TUESDAY - SUNDAY 11-9

CM LIFE .COM

FOLLOW US ONLINE

Make sure to read all of our coverage on our website, cm-life.com.

INDEX

SPORTS 8 — **CMU Football**
CMU's football team is on the rise.

EDITORIAL 11 — **Destress and Celebrate**
Take the time to un-winde and help celebrate Hispanic Heratige Moth

ONLINE — **Women in science exhibit**
Opens Sept. 22 at the Museum of Cultural and Natural History

ONLINE — **CMLife Tipline**
Tell us what you want to read and see

PODCAST — **Let out the inner narrator**
Read all about the podcast opportunites CM Life has in store

Cover Credits: Courtesy Photo

Nate Pappas | Staff Photographer

Macomb freshman Brittany Weller bumps the ball during the sand volleyball tournament on Sunday, Sept. 18, at the towers volleyball courts.

‘Bringing the world to CMU’

International student enrollment up by 230% in past year

By Patrick Bouman
News Editor

Courtesy Photo

On Aug. 17 and 18, Ling Zhang, director of Graduate and International Recruitment, stood by a table decorated with a Central Michigan University banner in the Detroit Metro Airport. She helped greet about 30 new international students as they arrived in the Detroit Metro Airport.

It was the first time CMU has done a welcome like this, Zhang said. Several people in the airport came up to her to tell her how great the table was.

But there are far more than 30 international students on CMU’s campus.

This semester, there are about 1,121 total international students on campus, according to reports from the Office of Global Engagement. Those numbers account for students with F-1 visas, which are about 98% of CMU’s international students.

Zhang said 636 of them are coming to CMU for the first time. In Fall 2021, there were 192 new international students, she said.

Vice President of Recruitment and Retention Jennifer DeHaemers said most of CMU’s international students are in graduate programs. This year, there have been about 40 new undergraduate international students, she said, and CMU wants to recruit more. Many students are more comfortable waiting until after their undergraduate years to study in another country, DeHaemers said.

The keys to this semester’s sharp increase, Zhang said, have been adapting to competition with other universities and streamlining the international application process.

“If I didn’t believe in CMU, I wouldn’t have taken this job,” Zhang said. “I can’t sell something that I don’t believe in, and I firmly believe CMU is a good place for our international students.”

“Selling CMU” is not the hard part of recruiting international students, Zhang said, it’s spreading the word around the world that makes her job more challenging.

“Where there is challenge, there is opportunity,” Zhang said. “(COVID-19) did that for us. It was a little bit hard; however, we were all on the same starting point because the cards were reshuffled. For universities that have more resources that can send staff all over the place, they cannot do that anymore because the door was closed.”

Time zone differences mean virtual recruitment events sometimes must be held late at night or early in the morning, something many universities are not willing to do, Zhang said.

“If we are able to, we do it,” Zhang said. “During COVID, there were times in the whole of February and March when we were up at 2 a.m. doing recruitment fairs. That does make a difference.”

Virtual recruitment events turned out to be a successful option for CMU, Zhang said, at a lower cost than traveling abroad. Even so, students do appreciate the personal touch of a visit to their country, she said.

On Sept. 21, Zhang left for a two-week-long solo trip to visit high schools and recruitment fairs in the Middle East. Countries she said she would visit include Jordan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

Zhang said when she was hired, enrolling as a new international student was more “frustrating.” Different steps in the process were scattered between various offices at CMU, she said.

Now, Zhang’s office can handle almost every part of an international student’s application, saving valuable time.

“That’s why the streamlining is so important,” Zhang said. “If we don’t have a response for them in a timely manner, they will turn around and go somewhere else.”

Vice President of Recruitment and Retention Jennifer DeHaemers said the U.S. Department of State laid off many of its foreign embassy workers during the pandemic. The remaining employees were working remotely, she said, making it harder to help international students with their visas and other paperwork.

DeHaemers said international students can defer their admission offer up to two semesters at a time before having to apply again.

Because of the layoffs and deferrals, DeHaemers said improvements to the admission process had a “delayed impact,” which is why the international student population has increased so much this semester.

Originally from China, Zhang said her experiences as an international student helped her to understand some of the issues CMU’s international students face in the U.S.

Shiyuan Wang, also from China, is a graduate student studying information systems. During his time as an undergraduate student at the University of South Dakota, he said he had a good relationship with Zhang, who worked there at the time.

“She took care of me a lot,” Wang said. “When I chose for my master’s degree, I planned to go with her. She’s very friendly and kindly.”

Wang said he also appreciates the work opportunities given to international students at CMU and how helpful the faculty are.

“Once I came to CMU, every instructor feels like your family,” Wang said. “They really care about your future, and they notice you again and again when you need to start to find a job or how to finish your academic works.”

Some international students also found CMU through a personal connection.

Rimsha Khattak, an undergraduate transfer student from Pakistan, said her brother works as an international recruitment advisor for U.S. universities. He sent her information about several schools with kinesiology programs, including CMU. Khattak said experience taught her to expect faculty to be less responsive to student needs.

“CMU proved me wrong,” Khattak said. “All the faculty, (and) staff were really nice. They give a lot of response to students—and a quick response.”

Coming to CMU was also Khattak’s

Courtesy Photo

first time leaving Pakistan. The language proved to be a challenge, she said, but she found help.

"For every problem I was just going to Ling's office," Khattak said. "She was so nice and treating me like family. She was like, 'Don't lose hope. Everything will be fine.'"

Khattak, a recipient of CMU's International President's Award scholarship, said she now strongly recommends CMU to her family and friends in Pakistan.

Shivam Shah, a graduate student from India studying computer science, said these word-of-mouth recommendations are one of CMU's best ways of reaching new students.

"With CMU, each and every person who knows about CMU gives positive feedback for it," Shah said. "CMU doesn't require any kind of marketing — just a good experience. That's the best way to welcome a person here."

Shah said CMU's friendly people and atmosphere also made him feel welcome.

"When I came from my country to over here, my parents, family and each-and-every person was over there," Shah said. "But when I came over here, I enjoyed the way that people greet me. I didn't feel a homesickness that I have when I come to a different place."

Zhang said international students also help CMU by bringing in more money. According to the university's website, undergraduate students from the U.S. pay $440 per credit, while international students pay $800 per credit. For graduate programs, U.S. students pay $726 per credit and international students pay $925 per credit.

"Not only do they bring a healthy tuition revenue to CMU," Zhang said, "but also the experience and the culture they bring to CMU. That really benefits our domestic students because the world is getting smaller. You almost cannot do any field without interacting as a global citizen. You have to be able to have experience with how the other world operates.

"It would be great for all our domestic students to do study abroad and see it, but that's not applicable. It's like we're bringing the world to CMU."

Akhila Sannidhi | Illustrator

Nico Mendoza | Staff Photographer

Shivam Prashant Shah poses for a portrait Sept. 19 in Moore Hall.

Nico Mendoza | Staff Photographer

Shiyuan Wang holds a Chinese magnet Sept. 19 in Moore Hall.

‘I called everyone, I talked to everyone, but no one replies back’

By Zipporah Abarca
Community News Editor

On the second day of classes, Carolina Hernandez Ruiz, an international student from Spain, opened Blackboard to find that all of her courses had been removed.

Hernandez Ruiz is a second-year student pursuing a major in neuroscience. She is an inclusion assistant in Celani Hall, a teacher’s assistant for an honors class and a Spanish tutor. After teaching herself English at 16 years old via movies, she attended Ionia High School for her senior year in Michigan, finishing with a 4.5 GPA in 2021.

Despite being a fully engaged, high-achieving student, a major change to her family’s financial situation and a web of obstacles from the federal government have left Hernandez Ruiz not only struggling to address significant debt, but doing so all alone.

Last spring, her father lost his job, which “changed [their] entire situation.” As a result, she was unable to cover the $15,000 cost of tuition.

After she was removed from her classes, she was informed that because she was no longer enrolled as a student, she had one week, at the time until Sept. 15, to vacate Celani Hall and her role as inclusion assistant, which gave her free room and board.

Hernandez Ruiz was told by Central Michigan University’s Student Account Services and University Billing (SASUB) that she had received phone calls over the summer, while she was home in Spain, regarding her payment plan; but, due to her not responding, there was nothing she could do.

“I didn’t receive any phone calls because my American phone number doesn’t work when I’m out of the country,” Hernandez Ruiz said. “So, they just called me, they never emailed me about anything. That’s why I was so surprised about it.

“Decisions have been made about my future, and I was not aware of any of this,” she continued. “I didn’t even get an email to let me know that I was going to be dropped from my classes and that I have a week to leave.”

All the while, Hernandez Ruiz has been attending her classes.

“I don’t have access to anything,” she said. “I have been going to class and just listen[ing] to the lecture, but I cannot do any homework.”

Nico Mendoza | Staff Photographer

Madrid sophomore Carolina Hernandez Ruiz holds a map of the brain and a book that has inspired her to “follow my dreams regardless of any difficulties,” Monday, Sept. 19 in Moore Hall.

> *“Decisions have been made about my future, and I was not aware of any of this,”*

Communication with the university

Immediately after realizing her classes had been removed, Hernandez Ruiz contacted SASUB as well as the International Student Organization to ask for support.

“It’s very difficult for me … my parents don’t live two hours away, my parents are in another continent,” she said. “I have to advocate for myself, do everything by myself.”

Hernandez Ruiz said she called SASUB several times but received no response. She decided to go in-person on Aug. 31 but left empty-handed. She scheduled a meeting with the director of SASUB, Brian Bell, on Sept. 7, but it was postponed due to COVID protocols.

She said she wanted the chance to explain that it is her “goal and responsibility to pay my student debt” and created a payment plan to do so.

Bell said in an email that he and his office communicated with Hernandez Ruiz the same as they would any other student.

“I spoke with her on the phone multiple times, no one told me to meet with her,” Bell said. “(SASUB) has communicated with her the same as we would any student (meaning multiple times in various ways), been very accommodating to her situation and given her more than ample time and flexibility to meet her end of the agreement to be a student at Central Michigan University.”

Finally, on Sept. 12, Hernandez Ruiz received an extension, until Sept. 22, to move out or submit an initial deposit of $3,500 toward her 2022 fall tuition.

Hernandez Ruiz created a GoFundMe in order to raise money for her tuition. As of deadline, she has raised more than $2,800.

“I am a very hard-working student, and my goal is to continue helping my community, that is why I want to continue studying,” she said. “I only want an opportunity.”

CMU defers to the federal government

Executive Director of University Communications Ari Harris said in an email that CMU must follow certain guidelines provided by the U.S. State Department on matters involving International Students.

“International students whose means of support have changed from what they originally provided as part of their admission process are encouraged to contact the Office of Global Engagement to apply for economic hardship under the provisions of the U.S. Department of State,” Harris said.

“Additionally, they may contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid to apply for a grant through the Student Emergency Fund. They are also encouraged to contact OneCentral to work out a payment arrangement in circumstances when they cannot pay their bill in full.”

She said campus offices can help determine whether a student is eligible for an extension before needing to vacate on-campus housing.

“When students face challenges, the Division of Student Affairs, which includes Residence Life, works with campus administrators to minimize disruption to that student’s life on campus, and we care deeply about their success,” Harris said.

U.S. State Department policy

According to Federal Student Aid, an Office of the U.S. Department of Education, non-U.S. citizens can receive federal financial aid if:

- You are a U.S national (including natives of American Samoa or Swains Island)
- You are a U.S. permanent resident with a Form I-551, I-151, or I-551C – with a valid green card.
- You have an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) showing as Refugee, Asylum Granted, Cuban-Haitian Entrant or Parolee.
- You hold T nonimmigrant status (victims of human trafficking) or your parents hold a T-1 nonimmigrant status.
- You are a “battered immigrant-qualified alien” who is a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you are a child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- You are a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau.

According to the DOE, to qualify for federal student aid, eligible non-U.S. citizens must be able to provide evidence hat they are not here for temporary purposes, but with the intention of becoming a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

VOTES AND GOATS

Nate Pappas | Staff Photographer

Two students walk past Central Votes representatives holding signs encouraging them to register to vote at the Fire up to Vote event Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the Fabiano Botanical Gardens.

Khy'ree Oliver-Shepperson says hello to a goat in a makeshift petting zoo at the Fire Up to Vote event Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the Fabiano Botanical Gardens.

Gaylord freshman DeLayni Brown hands a sticker to some passersby at the Fire Up to Vote event Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the Fabiano Botanical Gardens.

Slow start continues for CMU offense

The Chippewas look to solve the problem on the road against Penn State

By Sean Chase
Sports Editor

Through three games, one issue has consistently plagued Central Michigan football—slow offensive starts.

The Chippewas picked up its first win of the season on Saturday, beating Bucknell 41-0. However, their offense woes reared their head again.

After 15 minutes, CMU found itself in a scoreless tie with Bucknell. But a dominant performance from its defense helped revive the offense.

With a trip to Happy Valley on the horizon, head coach Jim McElwain made it clear that he is aware of the issue.

"Offensively, you get a couple of plays, and then maybe something doesn't happen real well and all of a sudden you're behind the sticks," McElwain said. "When we got going, we started to get ahead of the sticks. And that's when we're going to be successful offensively."

As the defense swarmed the Bison, running back Lew Nichols III broke through and finished the day with 166 rushing yards and two touchdowns. After the game, he gave all the credit to his offensive line.

"Our offensive line did an outstanding job," Nichols said. "It started early in the week with practice just from the mentality of understanding what we had to do. And then (on) game day, they just made it happen from the get-go. From beginning to the end, they just knocked guys off the ball, and I felt it really from the beginning."

Aurora Rae | Editor-In-Chief

Sophomore running back Lew Nichols III, left, hugs redshirt freshman Finn Hogan, right, after scoring a touchdown against Bucknell on Sept. 17 at Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

Even after reaching a season high in rushing yards, Nichols wasn't satisfied.

"Definitely, not satisfied," he said. "But we're just working day by day. You know, it's still early in the season, and I got the utmost faith in my teammates up front, receivers blocking on the perimeter and our coaches too."

While McElwain gives much of the credit to the CMU offensive line, he admitted getting Nichols going was a key focus for him.

"Total credit goes to those guys up front anytime your running backs' doing that," McElwain said. "But we obviously felt like in the first couple of games I don't think we got him going. I think it's something we wanted to do ... But, I was determined to make sure that Lew Nichols was gonna get going and he did and it was great to see."

In addition to success on the ground, the Chippewas found openings through the air despite being without wide receivers Dallas Dixon and Carlos Carriere.

"It just opens up everything," Nichols said. "If you're able to knock guys off the ball, you know able to get the running back downhill, it helps the passing game. And games like this just build confidence for our games in the future."

Knowing he would be without two key weapons, McElwain challenged players like Finn Hogan with stepping up in their absence.

Wide receiver Jalen McGaughy led the Chippewas with four catches for 69 yards, while Hogan finished the day with four catches for 25 yards.

While there were issues, McElwain believes the young wide receivers showed up even after a mistake.

"We had some big drops that obviously took some chunk plays away," McElwain said. "And yet, some of those drop guys came back and made plays and I think that's really good. So you know, we've got some talent in that room, we've got to keep coaching them and get them in the right spots. I thought Finn (Hogan) did a pretty good job for really the first extensive play he's had, as far as some pretty good third down fourth down catches, you know, he did a pretty good job there."

Entering in relief for starting quarterback Daniel Richardson, redshirt freshman Jase Bauer ended the game with 44 passing yards, 47 rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns.

Much like McElwain, Bauer is aware that the offense needs to start faster.

"Our biggest goal as an offense is to start fast," Bauer said. "And that's been one of the biggest focal points that we've been trying to focus on as a unit. So, obviously, we're still trying to work on that, you know, starting fast, but, we've been finishing pretty well. As a whole offense, we're just trying to work (on) starting fast, so we don't put ourselves in too big of a hole in the second half that we gotta get out of."

CMU heads to Happy Valley on Saturday to face Penn State at noon.

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO LIVE?

- 1019 S. DOUGLAS
- 330 CHERRY ST.
- 888 MISSION ST.
- COLONY WEST
- DEERFIELD VILLAGE
- EMERALD VILLAGE
- HICKORY LANE
- JAMESTOWN APTS.
- PLEASANT ST. APTS.
- POLO VILLAGE
- SOUTHPOINT VILLAGE
- UNION SQUARE
- WASHINGTON VILLAGE
- WEST CAMPUS VILLAGE
- WESTERN ISLANDS
- WESTPOINT VILLAGE
- YORKSHIRE COMMONS
- PLUS, HOUSES!

FREE GYM MEMBERSHIP

WE ARE PET-FRIENDLY!

UNITED apartments

Morey Courts Recreation Center

McLaren

‘I feel like everybody’s clicking now’: CMU defense leads charge against Bucknell

By Ryan Colores
Staff Reporter

Despite some key pieces absent from Central Michigan’s defense, the unit came through in a big way to secure a shutout against Bucknell.

In the secondary, starting cornerbacks Donte Kent and Rolliann Sturkey were held out of the Saturday contest. Additionally, safety Trey Jones was inactive from the game after taking some bumps in the prior week’s game against South Alabama.

While Kent and Jones missed action due to injury, head coach Jim McElwain said after the game that Sturkey’s absence wasn’t injury related.

“Yeah, he chose to leave the football team the other day,” McElwain said. “So that’s why the other guys got opportunities and they did a fantastic job. I was really happy with that.”

With Sturkey gone, the door was opened for other players to get extended looks. Sophomore cornerback Lavario Wiley got the start. In what was his debut performance with CMU, Wiley recorded two passes defended.

Redshirt freshman Caleb Spann, another member of the defensive backfield thrust into action due to injury, also had an impressive debut. He ended the game with four total tackles—one for a loss—and an interception.

“You know, they did a pretty darn good job,” McElwain said. “We had a couple guys down with some injuries and that kind of thing. And yet, it’s all about opportunities and next man up, and I thought those guys you know, getting themselves on film, they’re gonna learn a lot from it. And, you know, I was proud of them.”

McElwain added with a chuckle that those players “maybe should have been there before.”

At the front end of the unit, the defensive line had its best performance to date, as Bucknell produced 174 yards of total offense. The front seven bottled up the run game, with the Bison mustering 21 rushing yards on 30 attempts.

In CMU’s first two games, the defense surrendered over 500 total offensive yards to both Oklahoma State and South Alabama.

Redshirt freshman defensive end Michael Heldman enjoyed a breakout performance in his third career start. He was credited with 1.5 sacks, while senior defensive end Thomas Incoom had a sack of his own.

Incoom acknowledged what Heldman’s presence meant out there after the game.

“Yeah, I was very happy for him,” Incoom said. “You know, I told him at the beginning of the game, it’s gonna be a lot of (players) sliding to my side, so I need you to step up and help lead this game, and he did it right off the jump, first play. I was very happy about it. I felt like I was making a play when he made a play. I’m still happy about it, and I’m very proud of (Heldman).”

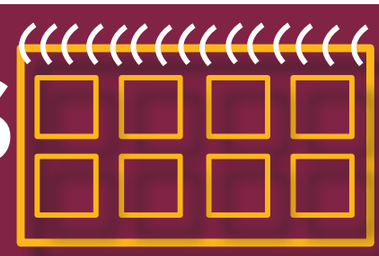
Incoom was impressed with his fellow defensive lineman, but his confidence in his team hasn’t wavered, despite a less-than-ideal start to the season.

“You know, we started the season 0-2, so this win got that sour taste out of our mouth,” Incoom said. “And it’s just the same guys doing the right stuff. You know, everybody’s doing their job and it’s very high confidence stepping into the next game. ... I feel like everybody’s clicking now.”

> *“And yet, it’s all about opportunities and next man up, and I thought those guys you know, getting themselves on film, they’re gonna learn a lot from it. And, you know, I was proud of them.”*
>
> **Jim McElwain**
> Head Coach

UPCOMING EVENTS

Engage in your community and see what's happening



9/22

Thursday

Why STEM Lacks Diversity - Fall 2022 Physics Seminar Series
3 to 5 p.m.
Dow Science 208, moves to Dow 102 at 4 p.m.

*Poster presentations followed by guest speaker

9/23

Friday

Hispanic Heritage Month: Arroz Around the World
3 to 4 p.m.
Wesley Church

*Food tasting event with rice from five different Latin American countries

9/24

Saturday

Hispanic Heritage Month: Low-Rider Car Show, Music and Food Tasting
12 to 3 p.m.
Wesley Church

*First 90 students to register on Engage Central get free meal tickets

9/25

Sunday

BBQ Around The World ISO Welcome Event
2 p.m.
Island Park West Shelter
Vegetarian + Halal options included

*$10 entry fee

9/26

Monday

Bridgerton Trivia
9 p.m.

The Cabin

9/27

Tuesday

Humane Animal Treatment Society Pop-Up Vaccine and Microchip Clinic
6 to 8 p.m.
HATS Health Clinic

*Walk-in, no appointment needed

9/28

Wednesday

Conversations that Matter: Has Education Become Political?
5 to 7 p.m.
Powers Ballroom

*Free and open to all who RSVP; dinner provided

9/29

Thursday

Friends of the Veterans Memorial Library Annual Book Sale

10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Library

9/30

Friday

15th Annual Walt Whitman Leaves of Grass Reading
7:36 a.m.
Fabiano Botanical Gardens

*Open to public

10/3

Monday

Advanced Exploration in DEI -- Fall 2023 pilot launch online, self-directed Registration Required

*Free and open to CMU community

10/4

Tuesday

Native Farmer' Market

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Corner of Broadway and Leaton Rd.

10/5

Wednesday

Clarke Historical Library Speaker Series Presents: Susan J. Bandes
7 to 8 p.m.
Charles V. Park Library

*The event is free and open to the public

10/6

Thursday

Hispanic Heritage Month Paper Picado Activity (Mexican Decorative Folk Art)
6 to 7 p.m.
Bovee University Center Room 108

10/7

Friday

Boos & Booze on the Putting Island
5:30 p.m.
Buck's Run Golf Course

*Register at Bucksrun.com or call (989) 773-6830.

10/10

Monday

National Indigenous People's Day 2022
All day
Plachta Auditorium or Opperman Auditorium

*Free and open to all

Mount Pleasant's third oldest business closes

By Zipporah Abarca
Assistant News Editor

After serving Mount Pleasant for 61 years, Robaire's Bakery has decided to shut down.

The previous owner of Robaire's, Dina Desormes, passed away in April 2022. Desormes' son Gerard had made the ultimate decision to close the bakery after the staff kept it open for the summer.

"After the passing of our beloved Dina, things were just not the same," a post from the Robaire Baker Facebook page said.

According to Desormes' obituary, Desormes was born in France in 1939 during WWII. She was a child when the Nazis occupied her hometown and her family had been hiding two American pilots who had been shot down over their farm. The war provided Desormes with "... resilience ... perseverance and the sense of doing right."

Michael Livingston | Former Editor-In-Chief

Dina Desormes inspects a decorated cake at Robaire's Bakery Oct. 7, 2021.

Desormes eventually met her husband, Robaire Desormes, with whom she immigrated to America. In 1944, Dina Desormes became a U.S. citizen and settled in Mount Pleasant, opening Robaire's Bakery in 1961 — it would become the city's third-oldest business.

After Robaire's passing in 1993, Desormes continued his baking traditions — waking up at 3:30 a.m., seven days a week to prepare the sweets and pastries.

As of Sept. 8, one of Robaire's employees, Amanda Adkins, created a GoFundMe to reopen the bakery.

Adkins worked for Robaire's for 10 years until the bakery came to a close. During her time working there, Adkins had expressed that it has been her "dream and passion" to take over the bakery for Desormes, whom she considered her own grandmother.

She said she would have taken over sooner, however, she was doubtful.

"[W]ith the passing of miss Dina, all of it is happening rather quickly where I have to act fast and ask for help," Adkins wrote on the GoFundMe page.

Adkins mentioned that she wants to own the bakery in order to prevent businesses unfamiliar with the background and quality of Robaire's baked goods, from buying it out.

"The thing is I don't (want to) change it," Adkins said. "I want to make sure we perserve it, get it back to the bakery I walked into 10 years ago."

Although the business officially closed Sept. 4, cake orders are still being accepted via email. Orders can be sent to robairesbakery123@outlook.com.

Explore your community

De-stress by celebrating Hispanic heritage

EDITORIAL

We are four weeks into our first normal semester since COVID-19 started. Right about now, you're probably feeling the pains of homework piling up and the stress of upcoming exams.

If you were here before or during the pandemic, you might have noticed a few differences on campus – more people, more in-person classes and, especially, more events.

We know you're stressed; we are too. But finding ways to add a little fun to your day can make the daily grind that much easier.

Attending events is not only a good way to blow off a little steam, but it's an ideal way to explore your and other cultures.

Right now, there are many opportunities on campus and in the community to learn about Hispanic culture.

This year Hispanic Heritage Month, in accordance with the national theme Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation, is focused on community building events, according to Alejandro Gradilla, assistant director for Latinx/Hispanic American Student Engagement.

"We do want to celebrate our cultures on campus for a sense of community and a sense of inclusivity to show our students that we do our best to try to make them feel like they are a part of campus," Gradilla said.

Through Oct. 14, over a dozen events feature everything from a low-rider car show to homemade tortilla making.

Gradilla said the events, which are all free and open to the public, are an opportunity for people outside of Latin American cultures to learn about and experience new traditions.

"We're trying to create ... spaces for (students) so they can come and learn what it is that we grew up experiencing in our homes," he said. "Spaces where normally students wouldn't have an opportunity to come and learn about these cultural arts or cultural activities."

Take advantage of these opportunities to learn about your peers and maybe even step outside of your comfort zone.

The Office of Multicultural Academic Student Services (MASS) has worked with various registered student organizations.

"It's created by students, for students," Gradilla said.

In addition to the MASS events, there are more chances to learn about Hispanic culture in the Mount Pleasant community.

The Latino/a Alumni Chapter is celebrating homecoming with several events from Oct. 7-8. The first event, an annual career-awareness information session, will feature "world-changing Latino/a professionals" Mark Ybarra, Miranda Valtierra and Dan Segura, according to CMU's website. They will discuss career advice and after, take part in a Q&A.

It's getting to be that time of the year where, every direction you look, another assignment seems to pop up. Take a few minutes, or an hour at most, out of your day to de-stress by attending an event and learning about Latin American culture.

STAFF

EDITORIAL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Aurora Rae
NEWS EDITORS
Patrick Bouman
Zipporah Abarca
SPORTS EDITOR
Sean Chase
VISUAL EDITIOR
Layla Blahnik-Thoune
PODCAST EDITOR
Mike Gonzalez
PRESENTATION EDITOR
Caroline Sharbaugh
DESIGN EDITOR
Alexandria Sprague
DESIGNERS
Christen Karasinski
Maselyn Kerbyson
Akhila Sannidhi

ADVERTISING
MANAGER
Ainsley Young
Elizabeth Hamiltion

PROFESSIONAL STAFF
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Regan Foster
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Kathy Simon

Central Michigan Life, the independent voice of Central Michigan University, is edited and published by students of Central Michigan University every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper's online edition, cm-life.com, contains all of the material published in print, and is updated on an as-needed basis.

Central Michigan Life serves the CMU and Mount Pleasant communities, and is under the jurisdiction of the independent Student Media Board of Directors. Dave Clark serves as Director of Student Media at CMU and is the adviser to the newspaper. Articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect the position or opinions of Central Michigan University. Central Michigan Life is a member of the Associated Press, the Michigan Press Association, the Michigan Collegiate Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press, College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers Association, the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Michigan Home Builders Association, Mount Pleasant Housing Association and the Mount Pleasant Downtown Business Association. The newspaper's online provider is SN Works.

Central Michigan Life is distributed throughout the campus and at numerous locations throughout Mount Pleasant. Non-university subscriptions are $75 per academic year. Back copies are available at 50 cents per copy, or $1 if mailed. Photocopies of stories are 25 cents each. Digital copies of photographs published in Central Michigan Life are available upon request at specified costs.

Central Michigan Life's editorial and business offices are located at 436 Moore Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859, telephone (989) 774-3493 or 774-LIFE.

Q&A

Reneé Watson

In an interview with Central Michigan Life, Reneé Watson answers questions regarding her past achievements as well as what goals she has for her position at CMU.

Zipporah Abarca ■ **Assistant** *News Editor*

Reneé Watson was named Central Michigan University's vice president of Student Affairs last April, and began this fall.

Watson has worked alongside institutions across the country for 15 years. As a leader and an educator, she maintained a mindset that students are her priority.

Before accepting her current position, Watson worked at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas as the Associate Vice President for Student Life. During her time there, Watson co-founded the Anti-Black Racism Task Force and Minority-Serving Intuition Student Council to support underrepresented students.

Watson grew up in Los Angeles and pursued a bachelor's degree in African and African American Studies at the University of Kansas. She earned a Master of Education from the University of Missouri at Saint Louis and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Northern Kentucky University.

Central Michigan Life sat down with Watson to ask about how she plans to utilize her new position on CMU's campus.

———————————————

CM Life: What made you decide to work in student life and affairs?

Watson: What made me go into student life as a whole is [that] student affairs was my lifeline when I was an undergrad. I was involved as an RA. The residential life community was my family. They were the ones that I had lunch with and dinner with at night. They were the ones that helped me keep my grades on track because I had a requirement to maintain a certain GPA in order to keep my job. And then my residents; I was there to help them transition, to help find their classes, to point them to resources. If there was a crisis, I was there, helping mop up the water from the flood, from the rain the night before. ... And so had I not been in student affairs, I would not have been able to find a community. I wanted students to have that same kind of experience.

What do you hope to change or build on at CMU?

A couple of things. For one, I do want to commend the student affairs staff and the faculty at large — I really enjoyed the events that I've been able to be a part of thus far, from move-in to Leadership Safari, IMPACT, as well as Welcome Week. However, when I came into this role, I definitely wanted to see there be some events for LGBTQ students right at Welcome Week. ... I definitely want to work more closely with international students as that student body demographic increases — how do we make sure that they're a part of Welcome Week and are feeling supported?

In partnership with the Office of Global Engagement, I also want to ensure that students of color have a space. Most recently it has been brought to my attention that some students would like to see dedicated space so they can just be together and have a sense of community beyond the Multicultural Academic Student Services office. I really want students to feel like the division of student affairs is a place where they can receive resources and support when they're at their best and when they're most vulnerable.

You co-founded UNLV's Anti-Black Racism Task Force, do you plan to bring something similar to CMU?

The Anti-Black Racism Task Force at UNLV came as a result of the unfortunate tragedy and murder of George Floyd. The former (UNLV) president at that time brought a number of faculty, staff and administrators to say, 'What do we need to do? Because I'm concerned about the safety of Black faculty, staff and students on this campus.' ...We were tasked with creating our own charge, creating our own mission and putting forth a number of action items that we thought were essential.

I would love to work in partnership with the Cabinet or Dr. Patterson or President Davies if that is needed, but it is important for those initiatives to start from the top. ... But I am certainly glad to be able to utilize what I gained from that experience to show as a model of how some things can get done through a task force that's formed for that purpose. But it does take a collective effort for such a task force to be successful — and then knowing your reach.

How did you win the Promoting Diversity Star Award in 2016 at Illinois State University?

At Illinois State, the majority of my work was laying the foundation to create a multicultural center. ... They did have office spaces. They did have programs. They did have money to support diversity initiatives. But they did not have a space for students just to be. And so through various creative ways, I led a group of students, and our faculty and staff to really make the compelling case that a multicultural center was needed.

I would also say that during my time at Illinois State University, I worked with faculty to create a program called Power to the People, which was with faculty and the college of education that taught students the foundation and principles about how to be an activist in a way that was working with faculty and staff. So, I think it was just a different way of working with students and administration and faculty on how to bring about change that would support diversity efforts.

What advice do you have for students and faculty at CMU regarding diversity inclusion?

I think we have to allow both faculty, staff and students to be allowed to bring their authentic self to this space. Sometimes there's a place for dialogue and education. Sometimes individuals need to lean into the conversation and be willing to have some discomfort because that's the only way you're going to learn and to challenge your assumptions and to challenge your biases. I think also, in other cases, some people need to take advantage of resources. There's a number of programs that are happening every day in (student affairs) and throughout campus to provide people with tools so that they don't create harm or create a situation where someone doesn't feel comfortable. But I do think it requires some level of vulnerability, introspection and reflection that we should all engage in.

I would say also, don't be afraid to admit when you get it wrong. If I can be honest, sometimes I have misgendered someone. I stopped and said, 'I'm sorry. Let me ask you, what are your preferred gender pronouns?' ... I understand that continuing to misgender someone could be harmful and make them feel 'othered' and we don't want to do that. So when you make a mistake, admit it and make that correction.

What do you hope to teach students?

Eventually, when it's time for me to leave CMU, I want students to look back and say that Dr. Watson showed me that she cared and that the number one role she has is showing up. I believe that 90% of the job is showing up. That's showing up to listen, showing up to provide resources, showing up sometimes to be vulnerable and say, 'Hey, I admit we didn't get that right, but here's what we're going to do,' and so forth. I also want students to know that CMU cares. CMU cares not just for their students but we care even after they graduate, and they can always come home because CMU cares.

Serving up a

WELCOME BACK TO CAMPUS *Treat*

$6.29 *Hot-N-Ready* LARGE CLASSIC
PEPPERONI OR CHEESE

$11 DEEP!DEEP!™ DISH
PEPPERONI OR CHEESE

Little Caesars®

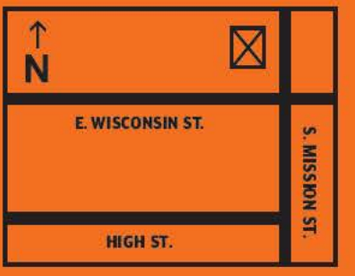
NO-CONTACT OPTIONS TO GET YOUR PIZZA

ORDER ONLINE GET IT DELIVERED

SKIP THE REGISTER

PIZZA PORTAL® *Pickup*

MT. PLEASANT
324 S. Mission St.
(989) 773-1121



ORDER ONLINE *Skip the Register!*

LITTLE CAESARS PROUDLY SUPPORTS CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Delivery available from participating locations with online orders only. Delivery fees apply. Plus tax.

©2021 LCE, INC. CR0016672

OPINION

Get the narrator out of your head, listen to CM Life podcasts

Michael Gonzalez

Podcast editor

Don't you hate it when someone reads your text wrong? One of the first rules I have with friends and family is that if we're having a heated argument, do it on a call — not text.

I say this because you never know how the other person wants you to interpret the text. You might be in a bad mood and receive a text that says, "Hey, take it easy," only to interpret it as an attack.

If you're reading this column, it's probably with some voice — maybe your own — that's playing in your head.

I have a problem with that. You aren't hearing my voice.

Now, I'm not trying to be narcissistic. What I'm saying is you don't know the tone of this sentence or the unique inflections in my voice.

What if there was a way to get the same information from Central Michigan Life's writers and get that narrator out of your head?

Well, that's exactly what *CM Life* podcasts are here to do. We give students, including our *CM Life* staff, the chance to have their voice heard ... literally.

There are nearly a dozen series covering various topics including movies, games, sports, news and much more. And, best of all, you don't need to worry about missing the interpretation of someone's message.

Our talented hosts are dedicated to making sure their and others' voices are engaging you in these important conversations. I mean, how many times have you written passionately about something, but by the time you read it out loud, it sounded as stale as my comedy?

Akhila Sannidhi | Illustrator

When I first came to *CM Life*, I was just some student who loved video games and wanted to share my opinion with anyone who would listen. Now, I'm one of eight editors that ensures everyone has the same opportunities that I did two years ago.

Even if you know nothing about podcasts, we all have to start somewhere. We have so much to offer, but take a listen to our wonderful hosts or come on in and tell us about an idea for a podcast. We can always use more interest and ideas.

This semester, every podcast in our lineup has a host except for our pop-culture series, "Raving Geeks." If you want to dip your toes into talking about the latest and greatest of nerdy news, now's your chance!

While we are in the midst of recruiting a host for it, our podcasts have ample opportunity for students to participate, short- or long-term.

To further discuss Raving Geeks or share your ideas, contact me at gonza4mc@cmich.edu or visit our office in Moore Hall 436.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LIFE

CLASSIFIEDS

CM-LIFE.COM/CLASSIFIEDS

436 MOORE HALL, CMU, MOUNT PLEASANT, MI 48859
P: 989-774-LIFE F: 989-774-7805 E: ADVERTISING@CM-LIFE.COM

$15/WEEK/3 LINES/15 WORDS • $75/WEEK/ UNLIMITED LINES
$10/WEEK/ ADD: BOLDING, HIGHLIGHT COLOR & BOX

FOR RENT

1 to 6 Person Apts. Furnished, Short & Long Term Leases, FREE WiFi Available 2022/2023 NOW LEASING (989)772-2222 www.LiveWithUnited.com http://www.LiveWithUnited.com

Two 2-bedroom units available on attractively landscaped property: 4200-4206 E. Wing Rd. Mount Pleasant, MI. Appliances (washer, dryer, range, refrigerator, and dishwasher) are included. One unit has attached Garage. Utilities and horseboarding not included. Interested? E-mail: extra.ideas@hotmail.com or call Ms. Ann (313)-623-1468

MEDICAL

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL $99.00 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-835-7273 Hablamos Espanol

Aloe Care Health, medical alert system. The most advanced medical alert product on the market. Voice-activated! No wi-fi needed! Special offer -call and mention offer code CARE20 to get $20 off Mobile Companion. Call today 1-877-542-1384

BUSINESS SERVICES

Looking for assisted living, memory care, or independent living? A Place for Mom simplifies the process of finding senior living at no cost to your family. Call 1-888-978-0584 today!

HELP WANTED

BELLA SENIOR CARE & PRIVATE DUTY Caregivers, companion aides and CNAs. Will train staff if no experience. Mt. Pleasant, Clare, Harrison, Mecosta, Barryton and Remus areas. Full or Part time available. Call (989)424-6500 or apply at Bellaseniorcare.net

VARIOUS PART-TIME POSITIONS J. Murray & Co. of Mt. Pleasant Family owned & operated Wholesale Distribution company. Contact Jenn or Julie (989)773-7566

BUSINESS SERVICES

BUILT BEST BARNS Best Quality, Best Service, NOW IN OUR 25TH YEAR! OVER 4,000 BUILDINGS IN MID MICHIGAN.

Call for QUOTES. License/Insured 989-205-2534

AUCTIONS

Online October Consignment Auction. Featuring Farm Equipment, Tools, Motorcycle, Riding lawnmowers, Woodworking tools, Large number of bicycles, Hay rake, Thrower wagons, Furniture & more! Bid 9/29/-10/3/2022 https://NarhiAuctions.hbid.com Narhi Auction Service 810-266-6474

Multiple Quality Auctions Open For Bidding. Guns, Sporting, Fishing, Industrial, Machining, Tools. To Bid & View 1,000's of Photos www.johnpeckauctions.com. Thinking Of Selling Call John 989-426-8061. Successful Statewide Auctions Since 1979.

Multiple Online auctions available now featuring: Plumbing tools, Lawn & Garden, Household, Power/hand tools, Model trains, Farm & Construction equipment. Live Real Estate auction multiple parcels. Details at: www.sherwoodauctionservicellc.com 800-835-0495

MISCELLANEOUS

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 877-401-2404

Beds-Beds-Beds! Mattresses any size and any comfort. Delivery anywhere in Michigan DanDantheMattressMan.com

MISCELLANEOUS

An AMISH LOG HEADBOARD AND Queen Pillow Top Mattress Set. Brand new-never used, sell all for $375. Call

anytime 989-923-1278

METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime asphalt shingles. Licensed and insured builders. Pole Buildings. Quality work for 40 years! AMISH CREW. 517-575-3695.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - $500 Discount + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

American Standard Walk-In Tubs. Buy from a brand you trust. Patented Quick-Drain® technology. 44 hydrotherapy jets. Lifetime warranty on tub and installation! FREE in-home consultation at your convenience. Limited time offer - $1,500 in savings includes a FREE right-height toilet. Call 1-833-591-1961

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. $0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-855-476-9698

MISCELLANEOUS

Trouble hearing your TV? Try TV EARS's Voice Clarifying Wireless TV Speaker. Better than a soundbar and/or turning the TV volume way up. Special, limited time $50 off offer. Call TV Ears. Use code MBSP50. Call 1-844-532-0612

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-866-319-1374

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator $0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote □ Call now before the next power outage: 1-855-922-0420

TV & INTERNET

DISH Network. $64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, $19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE $100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-866-950-6757

DIRECTV for $79.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-888-351-0154

UNIVERSITY RECREATION
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Student Activity Center

August 28th - October 15th

Welcome Back to the SAC!

CMU Students, CMU Faculty/Staff, and Community Members

AREA	MON-FRI	SAT	SUN
Fitness Center	6am-10pm	12pm-8pm	12pm-10pm
Pool*	6am-9am/ 11am-1pm/ 4pm-9pm	2pm-8pm	2pm-8pm
Weight Training Center	4pm-10pm	2pm-8pm	2pm-8pm

*See Calendar for Pool hours that include classes and practices

SIGN UP NOW FOR IM SPORTS!

Registration closes soon for the following:

#cmuIMsports

TENNIS (SINGLE & DOUBLE)
TO CLOSE 9/23 AT MIDNIGHT

HOME RUN DERBY
TO CLOSE 9/24 AT MIDNIGHT

3V3 BASKETBALL
TO CLOSE 9/26 AT MIDNIGHT

& over 10 other tournaments to choose from!

REGISTER AT IMLEAGUES.COM/CMICH

HAPPY hour

A FREE GROUP FITNESS CLASS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Meditation 4pm-4:30pm in Wellness Studio	Yoga 6pm-7pm in Rose 134	HIIT 8:30am-9:30am in SAC 202

Thursday	Friday
Yoga with Meditation 7pm-8:30pm in Rose 134	Zumba 2pm-3pm in MAC gym 1

FITNESS & wellness

All classes are first come, first served!

UNIVERSITY RECREATION
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

"WE INSPIRE ENGAGEMENT"

BRINGING YOU THE BEST IN LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ALICE IN CHAINS & BREAKING BENJAMIN
WITH BUSH AND PLUSH

FRIDAY, SEP 23 | 6:30PM
$32, $70, $90, $100

BOURBON & BACON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 | 6:30 PM
GA- $75 doors at 730pm **VIP**- $125 doors at 630pm

RINGO STARR
AND HIS ALL STARR BAND

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 | 8:00PM
SOLD OUT

LEE BRICE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 | 8:00PM
$44, $54, $72, $78

RON WHITE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 8:00PM
SOLD OUT

CLAY WALKER
WITH SPECIAL GUEST BILLY DEAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 | 8:00PM
$32,$44,$55,$61

SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 7:00PM
$69, $89, $102, $109

SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 | 10:30PM
$69, $89, $102, $109

Complete show lineup available at SoaringEagleCasino.com

Visit the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort box office, purchase two or more tickets (*prior to day of show) to any show with cash or credit and receive **$20 in Premium Play** on the day of show.

Get your tickets at **Soaring Eagle Casino** or **Saganing Eagles Landing Casino Box Offices,** ETIX.COM or call 1.800.513.ETIX.

soaringeaglecasino.com Mt. Pleasant, MI | 1.888.7.EAGLE.7

Performances held at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.
Entertainment subject to cancellation. Management reserves all rights.

SOARING EAGLE
CASINO & RESORT®